

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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Crime Commission Update



December 2012

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
Dave Heineman, Governor
Michael Behm, Executive Director

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Crime Commission Update

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<http://www.ncc.ne.gov>

Dave Heineman, Governor

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The Crime Commission welcomes the following new staff members: Teddy Pika, Grants; Emily Gilmore, Grants; Derek Jones, DMC/Juv Compliance monitor; Robin Peck, Budget and Accounting; Kitty Policky, Community Corrections; and Chris Harris, OVP Division Director.

Congratulations to the following staff members for their years of service to the State of Nebraska: Linda Krutz, 35 years; Deb Caha, 25 years; Dan Evans 25, years, and LaVonna Evans, 25 years.

-Michael E. Behm, Executive Director -

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

One major accomplishment of the Police Standards Advisory Council (PSAC) for 2012 was the completion of the 2012 Job Task Analysis (JTA) that will affect our basic training curriculum in 2013.

PSAC through the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice contracted with Systems Design Group in 2012 to conduct the JTA for the position of entry-level law enforcement officer for the state of Nebraska. By state law, PSAC has a legal mandate to conduct a job validation study every eight years. The last study was delivered in 2003.

The purpose of the study was to identify the job content of entry-level law enforcement officers and validate that content to the training curriculum used in all Nebraska basic academy training programs. The current curriculum was evaluated to see what was missing and to prepare learning objectives for missing content.

Over 700 line officers and 400 supervisors from 120 agencies participated in the survey. Statistically valid samples were obtained from all targeted sizes and types of law enforcement agencies. The officers answered over 600 questions regarding the frequency of tasks that they perform and equipment that they use. The supervisors answered similar questions, but also commented on the importance of the task or risks if the task was not done right. They also answered a question on when the officer should have received the training on that task. Those choices ranged from knowledge the officer should know when hired, knowledge and skills learned at the basic academy, and advanced training following the academy.

From that data a representative committee reflecting Nebraska law enforcement reviewed and presented the data to the Police Standards Advisory Council. The Council approved a plan to reduce 63 hours from current curriculum content, add 26 hours in new courses, and add 69 hours of material to existing courses. The Council approved a 640 hour basic curriculum with 36 additional administrative and testing hours. The former curriculum was 608 hours basic instruction with 40 hours of administrative and testing time.

The new curriculum requires an increase in the amount of time required to deliver the basic course. The current 14 week curriculum will expand to about 16 weeks and even longer, depending on how state holidays fall on the calendar. It also will require a continuous flow of training from one year to the next, including that in some years, training will continue over the Christmas and New Year's holidays. **It will be important for agency administrators to check the training calendar for the start dates of the next basic when making hiring decisions.** The old system of 3 basic classes starting in January, May and August each year will give way to five basics over two years. It is our intent to train the same number of students as is currently done and still offer all the mandated and specialized training as is currently accomplished.

A side benefit to this project was the development and validation of a new medical form that will be implemented in 2013. The new medical form has been validated for the position of *Nebraska law enforcement officer* based on the data from the JTA and can be used for making both your hiring decision (post job offer medical examination) and for admission to the academy.

This project was very important to Nebraskans as our end goal is graduating law enforcement officers from our academies who are able to perform the duties of a law enforcement officer as shown through validated academy curriculum. Job Task Analysis Committee members were, Deputy Director Brenda Urbanek, NLETC, Sergeant Jim Stover, NSPTA, Captain Genelle Moore and Sergeant Valerie Kinghorn, LPD, Sergeant Jake Ritonya, OPD, Chief Deputy Mark Montgomery, Dawson County Sheriff's Office, and Chief Steve Rathman, Plattsmouth Police Department

Grants Division

This year has been busy for the Grants Division. We hired four new staff and are excited to have a full team. In the beginning of 2012, we decided to bring our Financial Monitor position "in-house," versus a contracted position. This position conducts on- and off-site financial monitors on all Crime Commission funded subgrantees.

This past year, the Grants Division completed two State-wide strategic plans for Juvenile Justice and Justice Assistance Grants. The Consortium for Crime and Justice Research (CCJR) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha facilitated the development of the three-year strategic plan for the use of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) funds. A JAG stakeholder committee was formed and included representatives of various Nebraska criminal justice programs, as well as community or organizational leaders. The committee was tasked with determining the best use of the JAG funding with respect to evidence-based practices and to develop Nebraska's strategic plan based on the identified needs throughout the criminal justice system in Nebraska. Both strategic plans can be found on our agency website.

In July, the nationally recognized organization, Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), facilitated a two-day training session on developing economic security for victims of violence. This opportunity was arranged by our Victim Assistance Administrator to introduce the concept that gaining economic security leads to safety for victims of violence.

The Grants Division developed various online training modules over the past year to assist our subgrantees with training and technical assistance. In order to save time and money, the Grants Division implemented an electronic process for grant mail-outs. All grant applications are now sent out electronically for staff/grant review members. In addition, the applicants only have to make a few copies. The Division also restructured the requirements of grant management training for subgrantees. A PowerPoint Grant Management Training version was created for our agency website and updated for in-person trainings.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding is coming to an end. VOCA ARRA and VAWA ARRA closed at the end of September. JAG ARRA will close in February 2013. ARRA funds allowed Nebraska to fund a pilot project with the Nebraska Attorney General's office for a Statewide Victim of Crime Advocate. This position works in cooperation with local and county law enforcement agencies, community service providers, victim/witness units, and others to identify resources and provide assistance as requested to better meet the needs of Nebraska's crime victims. Fortunately, this position will now be maintained through other funding sources. ARRA funds allowed many criminal justice and victim agencies to purchase various types of equipment, including the ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System. The ShotSpotter is used in conjunction with crime analysis and intelligence-led policing tactics to effect reduction of violent crime and overall lawless events. The ShotSpotter provides the precise location of gunfire events.

The Grants Division is excited for the upcoming year and has established several goals we hope to accomplish in 2013. We are looking forward to providing a one day Grant Writing training next fall for our subgrantees.

Below 100 Challenge

Bill Muldoon, Director
Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center

One training session that I attended over the summer that really struck a chord with me was the **Below 100** initiative as presented by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's John Bostain at FLETC's Glynco, Georgia training facility.

As implied in its title, the *Below 100* initiative is an effort to reduce in-the-line-of-duty deaths to pre 1944 numbers, the last time that in-the-line-of-duty deaths was below 100.

While all in-the-line-of-duty deaths are tragic in both agency and personal loss, effort should be expended in *preventing* all in-the-line-of-duty deaths. A study of these tragedies reveals that a number of them were attributed to entirely foreseeable events that each of us know. The Below 100 program is based on the mantra, "Predictable is preventable". Effort in these key areas could make *Below 100* a reality:

Wear your seatbelt
Wear your vest
Watch your speed
WIN-What's important now?

Remember: Complacency kills. Do you know that the leading cause of in-the-line-of-duty deaths between 1999-2010 is traffic collisions? And of those, the leading causes were speed, lack of seatbelt use or being struck by another vehicle? Preliminary numbers for 2012 indicate traffic related deaths tops all other categories once again.

While the solution seems simple, it is not that easy. Some of us know of training that seems to contradict other training or know of officers who are not safe in their protective equipment use—or *their driving*—or both.

I challenge all law enforcement agency heads and supervisors to audit their training and FTO programs for inconsistencies in any teaching or practice that contradicts the above tenets. Do you know what your instructors and FTOs are teaching regarding seatbelt use while operating emergency vehicles? Many of us have only to look out the window to see if seatbelts are being worn by our personnel.

Have you gone the extra step to ensure that all your policies requiring safety equipment are being followed at all levels in your agency? Are erroneous myths being challenged wherever they may be found? Are their conflicting safety messages within your agency?

The first step may be admitting that we have a problem in the above referenced tenets. The second step is taking action and holding our people accountable. With a bit of effort, I believe that Below 100 is attainable.

More important, needless loss of life or permanent injury can be prevented.

More information can be found at www.below100.com

Police Chief Comments

This small article is reprinted from the April 1970 issue of a Crime Commission newsletter. Things have changed in 42 years!

Our police department primarily consists of myself and my deputy. We rotate duty every other night, but frequently double up on dance nights, Halloween and during fair weeks.

The village pays us a straight monthly salary. We both work full-time for two different railroads and are reimbursed for any time loss from our railroad jobs due to county court cases. In case of sickness or vacation, one covers for the other.

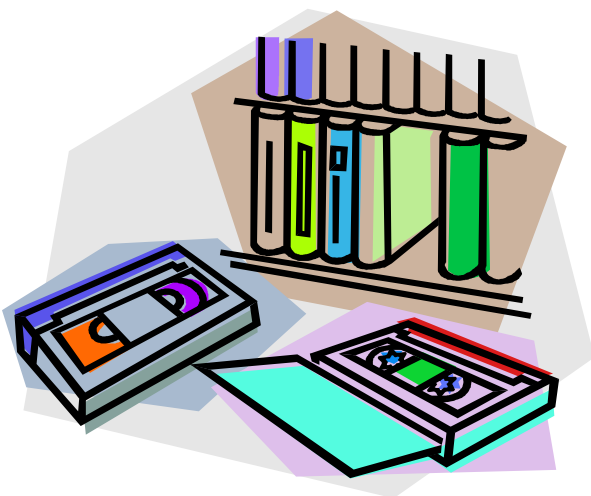
Our police station is in my home. We patrol with our own private vehicles. The village provided each of us with one canister of Mace and two years ago they replaced my tube-type 39.9 radio with a new GE transistorized radio.

We provide our own uniforms, guns, badges, sirens, red lights, cars and car expenses. I have been in charge of our police department for over three years and can honestly state that in seven months of those three years, it has cost me money from my own pocket to do my job.

Stupidity? Maybe. Dedication to providing a safer village in which to raise my five children? Definitely!

CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIDEO LIBRARY

The following Videos have been added to the library and are available for loan:



BATH SALTS (DVD)

23 Minutes Color In The Line Of Duty: 2012
Adult Audience

There is a new hallucinogen that is causing concern among law enforcement: bath salts. Either by smoking or injecting bath salts, users can achieve highs similar to cocaine or meth. Bath salts are legal to sell and there is no blood test to detect it. This program contains videos of users under the influence. Users exhibit bizarre behavior and these can be multiple officer calls to subdue and protect the user.

A second segment in this program discusses the effects of synthetic marijuana. This is another legal drug which can be purchased under the name "spice" or "incense". Officers need to be aware of how to handle users of this drug.

RESPONDING TO A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS (DVD)

72 Minutes Department of Health and Human Services: 2012 Adult Audience

Produced by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, this program contains advice on responding to mental illness calls. The DVD is divided into 14 segments, including segments on (1) determining danger, (2) crisis resolution, (3) psychosis, (4) depression, (5) mania, (6) crisis response options, and (7) regional behavioral health options.

COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY THE CORRECTIONS OFFICER, PART ONE (DVD)

28 Minutes Color Lockup USA Adult Audience

This program discusses and illustrates mistakes commonly made by correctional officers. Included are segments on (1) complacency; (2) getting distracted; (3) unprofessional behavior i.e. overfamiliarity, favoritism, and inconsistent enforcement; (4) failure to document violations; and (5) improper patdowns. This is a good program for new officer training or refresher training.

THE INMATE'S COOKBOOK, PART ONE (DVD)

34 Minutes Color Lockup USA Adult Audience

This program demonstrates common items that inmates can alter and use for weapons or escape. Weapons include (1) bludgeoning instruments; (2) stabbing instruments; (3) camouflaged items; (4) napalm/ignition devices; (5) handheld mortar; (6) blinding agents; and (7) a blowtorch. Escape items include (1) lookalike firearms; (2) rope; (3) saw/cut filler; and the many uses of a monopoly game. There is also a segment on nuisance items such as cooking devices, drug items, and a tattoo gun. This is a good program for basic or refresher training.

COMPLYING WITH PREA FOR THE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER (DVD)

29 Minutes Color Lockup USA: 2011
Adult Audience

PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) is a federal law designed to reduce inmate on inmate sexual abuse. It affects every corrections facility. This program offers advice for correctional officers that will help them comply with the PREA standards. Segments include (1) Being aware of your surroundings; (2) Video surveillance should only be a secondary tool; (3) Educate the inmates about PREA; (4) potential victims and potential abusers; and (5) Reporting potential violations.

INHALANTS (DVD)

18 Minutes Color Cambridge Educational: 2010
HS, Col, Adult Audience

Inhalants are the most frequently abused substances in the U.S. This program explores the physical effects of inhalants and the short and long term health impacts. It discusses teen attitudes and the major classes of commonly abused inhalants. Just a few of the inhalants discussed include nail polish, paint, paint thinner, glue, hair spray, aerosols, nitrous oxide, poppers, amyl nitrate, and ecstasy.

PHARM COUNTRY (DVD)

21 Minutes Color Films For The Humanities:
2010 HS, Col, Adult Audience

This ABC News program examines a growing trend in teenage drug abuse: getting high on legal drugs, obtained from parents' prescriptions or from the Internet. The snack bowl at a "pharm party" includes a mix of prescription drugs – from Adderall to Oxycontin to Xanax – and most of them come directly from the household medicine cabinet. Included in this program are interviews with recovering teenage addicts and their parents.

**THOUGHT(S) FOR THE DAY
- On Christmas-**

"A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together."

Garrison Keillor

"At Christmas, play and make good cheer,
for Christmas comes but once a year."

Thomas Tusser

"I do come home at Christmas. We all do, or we all should. We all come home, or ought to come home, for a short holiday — the longer, the better — from the great boarding school where we are forever working at our arithmetical slates, to take, and give a rest"

Charles Dickens

"Maybe Christmas", he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps.. means a little bit more."

Dr. Seuss From "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"



**Happy Holidays
from the Staff of the
Crime Commission**